

**Somers Library Board of Trustees  
PO Box 443  
Somers, New York 10589**

**MEETING MINUTES  
August 20, 2025**

Vice President Schnapper called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

The Trustees present were Nola Blair, Allison Colella, Susan Dillon, Sheelagh Kaplan, Kala Marsh, Brian Schnapper, and Barbara Tepper.

Christine Rios and Rebecca Wintle were absent with prior notice.

Allison Colella and Susan Dillon attended via Zoom.

Resident Chris Novell and Library Director Jessica Veissy were also present.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

A motion was made by Mrs. Tepper and seconded by Mrs. Kaplan to approve the minutes of the July 16, 2025 as submitted. All were in favor.

**Announcements and Correspondences**

From the Suggestion/Comment Box – add a splash guard to the urinal in the men's room; Miss Stacy's classes are great - thank you!; buy Diary of a Wimpy Kid book 11; better public WiFi; and more Switch Games.

A patron booked a visit to the Intrepid but realized she had to pay a significant amount for parking. Margaret Widman, the Principal Library Clerk, quickly reached out to a staff member at the museum, who was very helpful. The staff member was able to email Ms. Widman a parking pass for the patron's visit on the same day. Great job Margaret!

The annual Book Buddy program in the children's room has been a great success once again. Thanks to Alan Briones, the Children's Librarian, for maintaining this program. The library so many happy readers!

Circulation fielded about 300 phone calls for the month of July. It's safe to say July was quite busy for the Circulation staff. A wonderful job done by all!

As a part of the Summer Reading Program, the library launched Tuskie. Patrons can check out the small stuffed animal mascot, Tuskie, and take him on adventures. It has been so popular that more elephants had to be purchased. Tuskie has been to the beach, Ireland, a Godzilla convention and more!

Lily Konys, Library Clerk, received a compliment from a patron at the circulation desk: "The patron has been noticing how busy the library has been recently and how many people have been attending the programs. She wanted me to let you know that she thinks you are doing a great job and she loves the energy the library has had recently!"

The Somers Library staff has been working on a fun and light-hearted secret project, currently in the very early planning stages. To start things off, a small clue is being shared - **Somers, CT**. Stay tuned to the library's social media - there may be more hints revealed very soon!

Ms. Veissy would like to extend her heartfelt thanks to Supervisor Scorrano, Marty Stole, Police Officer Kim Maguire, 2nd Assistant Chief Jeff Hopper and his crew from the Somers Volunteer Fire Department, and Farah Cleary, Day Camp Director, for being guest readers at the Second Annual Guest Reader Story Time for the Kindergarten campers. The children had an amazing time and learned so much from each of the guests. Mrs. Dillon suggested that next year community groups such as the Lion's Club be asked to participate in this endeavor.

### **Public Comment**

Last month, resident Chris Novell addressed the Board. She spends a lot of time at the library and appreciates the programs offered. Quite a few years ago, Ted Talks were available and Mrs. Novell would love to see them offered again. She also suggested offering Moth Story Hour, and to add to that it would be nice if the audience had a chance to share a story they had with the group about perhaps a hobby. Finally, she suggested that there also might be a bulletin board in the lobby for folks to post an index card expressing wanting to meet up with someone to discuss a common topic. Mrs. Novell returned this evening with the information about the Ted Talks that ran from September 2017 to May 2019 to share with Ms. Veissy. She also reiterated her thoughts as stated above. Mrs. Novell was thanked for her suggestions.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Ms. Blair prepared and presented the Treasurer's Report which was reviewed and discussed.

Ms. Blair made a motion to approve the Abstract of Audited Vouchers #8, dated August 20, 2025 in the amount of \$21,474.34, which included voucher numbers 115253 to 115275. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Tepper. All were in favor.

The contractual amount spent this past month was \$21,474.34, including \$8,867.20 from the Gift Fund. The largest expenditures were: Amazon (office supplies) \$4,354.83, NYSEG (electric) \$1,870.76 and Kencal Cleaning Services (building cleaning) \$1,807.00. Payroll and benefits were \$68,761.57. Total library spending for all accounts was \$90,235.91.

### **Library Director's Report**

Life Scout Aidan Kimmel has completed his project, and all are very grateful for his hard work. The sign he created has already attracted many visitors to the back area, where they can explore the pollinator garden and learn about native plants. However, a few bunnies managed to get through the fence and feast on the new plants shortly after they were planted. Nonetheless, Ms. Veissy is confident that there will be a much larger bloom by next year. Overall, the front garden and the pollinator garden look absolutely beautiful.

The early stages of redesigning the monthly newsletter have begun. There has been discussion about changing the Library's monthly newsletter to a quarterly format, as the weekly emails are gaining more traction and receiving more clicks. The library wants to ensure that they are effectively reaching our patrons with valuable information without overwhelming them. Ms. Veissy will be working on the "Annual Report" format that can be presented to the community at the end of each year. She believes this will be a great way to share collected information and statistics with patrons.

Dr. Bronstein, the new Superintendent of the Somers Central School District, visited the library on Monday, August 18<sup>th</sup>. During his visit, he discussed a new partnership between the library and the schools, as well as taking the opportunity to get to know the library. It was a quick visit as he had other Town building stops. Ms. Veissy hopes to have even a more interactive relationship with the school librarians. Mrs. Kaplan suggested an Educator's Breakfast. Mrs. Dillon said it would have been nice to have some of the Trustees present during his visit.

5,458 patrons visited the library in July.

## **Buildings and Grounds**

The non-automatic front door of the library is getting stuck and staying open, but thankfully not too often. It seems that the arm for opening and closing the door is a bit loose. Mr. Stole is going to look at it in hopes that Door Control doesn't have to be called.

It was brought Ms. Veissy's attention that for many years the two skylights located above the DVDs have been aiding in the quick deterioration of the plastic covering on the cases as well as discoloring the labels. UV film has been purchased for the skylights in order to stop this ongoing issue. It will help with not only this issue but also energy efficiency as well. That area becomes very hot in the warmer months, and it is harder for the system to cool it down. The grade of UV film that has been purchased will still let an ample amount of natural light in. Mr. Stole is in the process of installing the UV film.

Unfortunately, the evening of the completed inspection done by Doyle Security, Ms. Veissy was alerted around 11:00 p.m. that there was an issue in an area in the library. It continued throughout the weekend of July 11<sup>th</sup> until Ms. Veissy was able to contact the service department on Monday, July 14<sup>th</sup>. The sensor in the program room went bad the day of the inspection. Doyle returned on August 14<sup>th</sup> to complete the installation of the new part, and the program room area is back online with the system.

There is no update on the railings for the emergency exit.

## **Grant Review**

Brendan Byrnes from Assemblyman Matt Slater's office informed the library that the Bullet Aid is expected to be distributed via direct deposit by the end of this year. The library is incredibly grateful for this support as it's helping bring the new chair project to life. Once the project is complete, the library will be welcoming Assemblyman Slater for a visit to see the finished product.

## **Personnel**

Marie Nania was reachable for this canvass list. Ms. Veissy is happy to share that her first day was August 18<sup>th</sup>. This will be announced on the website and social media so that patrons may stop in to meet her.

Alan Briones will be completing the first step of the Librarian II Civil Service Exam the week of August 18<sup>th</sup>. Once he submits the first portion, he will have to wait for Westchester County Civil Service to respond with the next steps and the second portion of the exam. Hopefully the library will have a score for Mr. Briones by October 2025 at the latest.

## **Professional Development**

Staff development for all the staff will resume in the fall. However, staff members continue to pursue professional development by taking courses on their own.

## **Monthly Statistics for July**

New Library Cards – 93 (75 adults, 15 juveniles, 2 teen and 1 courtesy)

ILL Items Received – 1,748

ILL Items Supplied – 1,175

Monthly Circulation – 14,940

Computer Usage – 124

Door Count – 5,458

WiFi Usage Connections – 1,222

Reference – 1,274 (Adult/YA) and 308 (Children)

Programs/Attendance – Adult 42/611, Teens 8/209 and Children 3/1,266

Mrs. Dillon extended her congratulations to Ms. Veissy and the staff on a job well done, the monthly statistics for July were fantastic.

### **Staff Meeting**

The reference staff and Ms. Veissy met on Tuesday, August 19<sup>th</sup> to plan for the fall. Ms. Veissy received an email from Peter Riffel, the Director of Small Business and Workforce Development at WLS, informing her that the local PCSB Bank has invited WLS and the Somers Library to showcase their various programs and offerings at their branch this October. Due to time constraints caused by several large upcoming events, including the one at PCSB, the staff meeting will take place in September when everyone's schedules are more accommodating.

### **Friends of the Somers Library**

There was no report as the Friends don't meet over the summer.

### **Monthly Meeting with Town Update**

Mr. Schnapper reported that the monthly meeting was held last Wednesday and the Teen Renovation project was the main topic. He appreciates that the good conversation continues.

### **Old Business**

#### **Teen Room Renovation Update**

Although not required, a decision was made to have an egress door as part of the Teen Room Renovation for safety purposes. There are still some tweaks that have to be made before the project can go out to bid.

#### **HVAC Update**

At their August meeting, the Town Board approved soliciting RFP's for an HVAC design for the library. The updated scope of work is expected soon and can be shared with the Town Clerk so the packages can be sent out and this advertised.

#### **Addition to Collection Development Policy: Local Author Book Addendum**

Last month, Ms. Veissy provided the Trustees with a draft of Local Author Book Addendum and pointed out a few minor changes. Mrs. Kaplan suggested another addendum with regard to returning the items to the author. She will discuss it further with Ms. Veissy.

### **New Business**

#### **Grant Opportunity for Program Room**

Ms. Veissy was made aware of a grant opportunity for updates to the program room. Her contact is in the process of determining if the library is eligible to apply.

At 7:45 p.m., the Board went into Executive Session to discuss union contract negotiations. They came out of Executive Session at 7:55 p.m. and the meeting was closed.

The Board will meet next on Wednesday, September 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the library.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Schirmer, Secretary  
Somers Library Board of Trustees

cc: Library Board of Trustees  
Town Board  
Town Clerk  
Finance Department – Carolyn Brush and Bob Kehoe